development of urban and rural consumer cooperatives have since been transferred to the State Sector from the financial year 1993-94 onwards. Provisions will, be made for development of these schemes under the State Sector Plan. The 39,800 and odd consumer cooperative outlets in urban areas and 52000 or more village level cooperatives cover only 2% of the distributive consumer trade. In Eighth Five Year Plan it is proposed to increase the coverage to 3% of total distributive trade.

Tax reliefs on vegetable oils

3614. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vanaspati industry has asked for tax reliefs for vegetable oils;

(b) whether Government are aware that hydrogenation of oils does not help in any way and there is world-wide move to promote consumption of liquid oils;

(c) whether the hydrogenation also involves the use of nickle which is an avoidable risk in edible foods like vanaspati; and

(d) whether Government would consider giving assistance/subsidies to actual consumers of liquid vegetable oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hydrogenated vegetable oils have more shelf life than liquid oils. Consume/ have already shifted to liquid oils, increasingly.

(c) Yes, Sir. Nickel is used as a catalyst to accelerate the reaction of hydrogenation which cannot be avoided.

(d) Govt, has already exempted excise duty on liquid vegetable oils.

Commission to fair price shops

3615. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are giving different commisison to the fair price shops, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the rates of commission in each State regarding sugar, edible oil, wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The retailers' commission on PDS commodities are decided by the State Governments. The Central Government does not recommend the rate of Commission to be paid to the fair price shops on the sale of edible oils, wheat and rice and the information on exact margins allowed by different States is not maintained by the Ministry. In the case of levy sugar, however, the margins payable to wholesalers and retailers for distribution of levy sugar are fixed as per the standardised norms laid down in 1989. Margins so fixed for levy surgar are revised periodically by Central Govt, on receipt of specifc proposals from the State Governments. Apart from the cash margins allowed to the fair price shops, they are also allowed to retain the realisation from the sale of empty gunny bags. For levy surgar, they are also given transport charges depending on load, type of terrain and prevailing rate per kilo metre per quintal approved by the State Government.

Strengthening of public distribution system

3616. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations made at the 14th meeting of the PDS

Advisory Council regarding strengthening of the public distribution system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Advisory Council recommended an increase in the subsidy from 25 percent to 50 percent to purchase mobile vans for distribution; and

(c) what action is proposed on this recommended increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A Statement giving the conclusions arrived at the 14th meeting of Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) is *given in the* enclosed *statement (see* below)

(b) and (c) The Central Government has increased the subsidy portion from 25% to 50% and reduced the loan portion from 75% to 50% on the assistance provided for purchase of vans to be used as mobile fair price shops or door delivery vehicles. The assistance is limited to Rs. 4.00 lakhs per vehicle. An announcement to this effect was made at the 14th meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS.

Statment

Conclusions at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held on 27.7.92

1. Almost all the States expressed the view that the benefits of PDS should be made available only to the needy and deserving sections of the population and requested that a National Policy in this regard should be evolved.
2. Adequate allocations of PDS commodities, especially rice and wheat will be maintained by the States to the areas identified for implementing the Revamped PDS.
3. Focussed attention will be maintained on the off-take and actual delivery of PDS commodities, especially rice and wheat to the areas identified for implementing the Revamped PDS.
4. The end retail prices of wheat and rice in the identified areas shall be maintained uniformly throughout the country: not exceeding the specially subsidised Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice by 25 paise per kg.
5. In regard to the work relating to the opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards, Constitution of Vigilance Committees, identification of sites for godowns and elimination of ghost cards, States/UTs who have not completed the work so far, will do so by the end of August, 1992.

6- In future, while revising prices. Government of India may take care to fix prices rounded of to the nearest five paise so that the consumers are not handicapped.

7. The End Retail Price of levy sugar under the PDS should be rounded off to Rs. 7.00 per kg, as against the present price of Rs. 6.90 per kg. The increase should go to the Retailer as margin.
8. The allocations of SKO are grossly inadequate and need to be augmented.

Carrying on business of fair price shops and kerosene oil depot

3617. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is obligatory to take a licence from the Civic bodies in Delhi to carry on any type of business including fair price shop kerosene oil depot, dealership in edible oils;

(b) if so, the reasons why large number of edible oil licence holders have been granted licences by Delhi Administration without production of licences issued by civic bodies on non conforming areas;